Run timing and abundance of adult salmon in the Tuluksak River, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2001

Abstract: A resistance board weir was installed and operated in the Tuluksak River between July 8 and September 18, 2001 to enumerate adult salmon and collect biological data. This project involved a cooperative agreement between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Tuluksak Village. Data collected were used inseason to manage the commercial and subsistence fisheries in the Kuskokwim area. Water and temperature levels fluctuated during weir operations ranging from 0.91 meters and 7.2 °C during installation and peaked at 3.0 meters and 13.3 °C. A total of 17,599 chum Onchorynchus keta, 777 Chinook O. tshawytscha, 131 sockeye O. nerka, 45 pink O. gorbuscha and 10,430 coho salmon O. kisutch were counted during the 2001 field season. Passage was higher than previously recorded escapements between 1991 and 1994 except for Chinook and pink salmon. In addition to salmon, one Dolly Varden Salvelinus malma, 55 white fish Coregonus and Prosopium spp., and one northern pike Esox lucius were recorded passing through the weir trap. Fish passage was calculated for 24 uncensused days using average daily proportions of fish passing the weir on those days between 1991 and 1994. Based on corrections made to actual counts we estimated that 19,311 chum, 998 Chinook, 137 sockeye, 48 pink, and 23,768 coho salmon escaped in 2001.

Citation: Gates, K. and K. Harper. 2002. Run timing and abundance of adult salmon in the Tuluksak River, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2001. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, 2001 Annual Report (Study No. 01-053). U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office. Alaska Fisheries Data Series No. 2002-6, Kenai, Alaska.